



SENATOR
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McManus Minutes



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“This office belongs to the citizens of the 35th district.”

State Senator Michelle A. McManus

Senate approves Great Lakes Compact to safeguard Michigan waters

The Senate recently approved legislation that will adopt the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact to further safeguard Michigan waters and implement a landmark assessment process to evaluate the impacts of proposed large water withdrawals.

Senate Bill 212 would adopt the compact which develops common measures for each state in the basin to regulate in-state withdrawals and prohibits out-of-basin water diversions. Key provisions in the bills will ensure that the Michigan Legislature be involved in any changes to the compact and preserves the state's authority to conduct its own water management program.

The compact clarifies that water withdrawals originating within a state are to be regulated solely under state law without intervention from the Great Lakes Council, other states or the federal government. It also requires each Great Lakes state to implement a water management plan that will assess withdrawals from the basin. Senate Bill 860 fulfills this requirement by adopting the withdrawal assessment process developed by the Groundwater Conservation Advisory Council.

Other bills in the package would:

- Establish the Water Resources Conservation Council (a new version of the Groundwater Conservation Advisory Council, which had been dissolved by the governor) and adds new member organizations and responsibilities for the council;
- Lower the current permit requirement threshold to 200,000 gallons a day for bottled water producers;
- Apply one standard of two million gallons a day for a proposed withdrawal from any community water supply; and
- Increase fines to \$10,000 per day for knowingly violating water-permitting provisions.

The science-based water management package is designed to protect Michigan's environment, while not unnecessarily restricting the growth of the state's economy. The legislation has support from the Michigan United Conservation Clubs and business groups such as the Michigan Chamber of Commerce, Michigan Farm Bureau, and Michigan Manufacturers Association.

Senate Bills 212, 723, 727, 858, 859 and 860 will now advance to the House for consideration.

Contact Me

My door is always open. Please do not hesitate to contact me regarding state issues. You can reach my Lansing office by phone at: 517-373-1725; toll free at 866-305-2135, or contact my Cadillac District Office at 231-775-8599. If you received this as a forwarded message and would like to receive future legislative updates via e-mail, you can sign up at my website: www.senatormichellemcmanus.com.